(b) Telephone rentals were raised only in 1982, 1988 and 1990. The call charges were revised in 1982, 1986, 1988 and 1990.

(c) and (d) The productivity of the Staff is being increased by controlling the staff-to-telephone ratio. In addition, a 5 per cent cut in revenue expenditure was imposed in 1989-90 which resulted in a saving of approximately 100 crores. This year also, efforts will be made to contain the revenue expenditure to the minimum possible level.

Bhagalpur riots

*31. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER:

SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the latest figures compiled by the Bhagalpur Administration, the toll of persons killed in the communal riots in last October is almost double than the official figures claimed earlier and that 150 villages had been wiped out in the violence;

(b) if so, what is the factual position regarding (i) the amount so far sanctioned by the State Government and the Centre to compensate the families of the victims; and (ii) the actual amount of compensation paid so far and the number of families benefited;

(c) whether, in view of the recent disclosures of the number of deaths in the communal riots, Government propose to provide additional amount of compensation; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) what steps have been taken so far to rehabilitate the families of victims and what are the results achieved?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED): (a) and (b) The Government of Bihar have reported on the basis of the enquiry conducted by the District Administration that the number of deaths and missing persons in conection with Bhagalpur communal violence is estimated to be 982.

2. Ex-gratia relief at the rate of Rs. one lakh each to the near relatives of those killed/missing in Bhagalpur communal riots had been sanctioned in 329 cases out of 478 cases received till 15th July, 1990. 123 cases are pending for orders and reverificaiion and 26 cases have been regected. In addition, a sum of Rs. 10.000/- each has been paid from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund.

(c) and (d) An amount of Rs. 2.67 crore has been distributed among the riot-affected persons. The State Government have stated that after survey, 982 powerlooms were found damaged in Bhagalpur district. 783 petitions of 524 weavers affected by communal riots of Bhagalpur have been forwarded to different banks, and as per available information 146 cases have been disposed of. Repairing of handlooms damaged during the riots is being done by various cooperative societies of weavers. An amount of Rs. 6.25 lakhs has been made available to these societies. Similarly, for the rehabilitation of other riot, victims, an amount of Rs. 26.48 lakhs has so far been sanctioned by different banks in 314 cases out of 704 applications received. Drinking water facilities have been provided in riot-affected villages of Bhagalpur district, and 125 hand pumps have been installed. The State Government had set up 74 relief camps for about 45,000 riot victims in which free food, clothing, medicines worth about Rs. 88.08 lakhs were distributed.

2. Considering the magnitude of the Bhagalpur disturbances so far as relief and rehabilitation measures of weavers is concerned, a special package of the schemes involving a total expenditure of Rs. 1.55 crore was drawn up by the Union Ministry of Textiles in consultation with the Government of Bihar in January, 1990 and Rs. 50 lakhs has been released already as the first instalment.